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CLASS A

Movie Makers

Dedicated to the Interests of the Serious Motion Picture Maker

VOL. 6

MAY-JUNE, 1996

NO. 3

IT WON'T GO AWAY

IN RETROSPECT

There seems to be a popular habit of making opinionated charges against an organization, then see how they defend themselves. It has been said by responsible people that the American Motion Picture Society allows professionally made films/videos in their Class A non profit competition. What the heck defines a professional? It could be that the acting is so good and believable in some winning foreign films, they just must be made using professionals. If some of the people making the accusations could recognize the actors, then the charges might be dropped.

I have heard some say in the U.S., that if the film was made in Europe, it is a Pro. motion picture. This is hog wash. The AMPS film/-video competition does have a

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The 1920's launched some profound developments in amateur movie equipment. For the first time home movies were available to everyone. It opened the way for new avenues of expression. Amateur radio was sparking the interest of many people. That decade would result in two organizations being created. With amateur radio it was the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). With amateur movies, it was the Amateur Cinema League (ACL). The word League seemed to be the popular "buzz" word back then.

The interesting point is, that one man seemed to have a visionary gift. That man was Hiram Percy Maxim (1869-1936). He was an engineer who was involved in the gasoline engine horseless carriage, and the electric motor driven carriage. Those advocating electric cars re-

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AMPS Movie Makers

Dedicated to the interests of the serious motion picture maker

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George W. Cushman
Founder 1909-1996

Howard Lewis, Editor

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SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

CANADA, Margaret Chamberlain, 2701 Arbutus Rd., Victoria, BC V8N 1W8
NEW ZEALAND, George Shannon, 107 Ballance Street, Gisborne

A POINT TO PONDER

Who is to decide what is fair?

In the heyday of the Movie business there were thousands of Drive In Movie Theaters across the country. Now there is less than 860 remaining.

Kathryn Dillon

Editors note: This is the 30th in a series of articles on the subject of judging films and videos in Festivals and Competitions.

There is an old story of the fellow who wrote to the U.S. Patent Office and said, "Please send me a list of all the things that have not been invented yet." We received a similar request of, "Please send me a list of subjects that win in movie/video competitions."

It takes more than a mere subject alone to win in a movie. It is a matter of how clever a movie maker is in presenting the subject in a story line. In the past years Hollywood has been quick to make a sequel to a picture if it was successful at the box office. How many times has Cleopatra been made, and re-made down through the years?

As far back as we can remember, scouts from Movie Studios have been known to go to Non-Professional Movie/Video showings to try to pick up some new ideas or story lines.

After the American International Film & Video Festival each year, and the Judges have made their selections, the results are printed in MOVIE MAKERS. It is normal to also list the number of entries in each

category. It is also our practice to try to add a single line description of what the winning entry is all about.

A selection of winning Films/Videos will be exhibited at the combined Societies of Cinematographers Joint Convention. The get together will be in Victoria, B.C., Canada, Oct. 3,4,5,6, 1996. The location will be at the Harbor Towers Hotel, 345 Quebec St., Victoria, B.C. Canada V8V 1W4. Attend the Convention and you can write your own list of the type of story that wins.

LETTERS

From New Zealand

We will miss George as we always stayed with him and he with us. I well remember sitting on his porch at night putting to right all that was wrong with movie making, etc. George always use to say "Rosemary, the Losers make the Rules." How right he was.

Rosemary Kent
Christchurch, NZ

A big problem with Pagers and Cellular telephones is people inadvertently dropping them down toilets.

It's down the wooden, porcelain, or stainless steel fixture if you are not careful with your communication device.

Continued from page 1



Jiram Percy Maxim, 1869-1936 Founder of the Amateur Cinema League in 1926.

placing the modern automobile now days would do well to read the book Horseless Carriage written by Mr. Maxim. Mr. Maxim could see the need for organizations to keep Radio Amateurs informed, as well as one for Amateur Movie Makers (now known as Non-Professional). Most HAM radio operators belong to the ARRL. We who belong to AMPS do not realize it, but we are modern day disciples of the original aims and purposes of the ACL.

GO OUT AND MAKE US SOME NEWS

Almost like the Biblical line about "Go forth and multiply" is the directives to some news reporters to leave your pencil and pads behind, and go out and shoot something with this Video Camera.

I say verily unto thee, "Get out'a here and bring us some news!"

A GREAT MOVIE MAKER MIXER

With all the audio mixers available for the budget-minded movie maker, it's hard to decide which features are really all that important. How many bells and whistles can I use?

I would like to recommend the MACKIE 1202. This little mixer has found a home in plenty of professional setups costing \$50,000. Not bad for a mixer coming in under \$450. It has four mic/line inputs with phantom power (for condenser mics) and four stereo inputs for connecting video decks, tape player and CD players.

The biggest advantage this mixer has, is the mic preamps are the same as in the bigger mixer line that MACKIE makes. In addition, it's cleaner than most CD players.

Noise will have an accumulative effect when mixing several sources. A lot of times you will ignore the noise but notice that the sound does not seem as clear as it should be. It helps to have a mixer that will allow you to turn up the volume on weak signals and not add noise of it's own to the mix.

Take a look at this mixer and

see if it might meet your needs.

Note: MACKIE has just introduced a new and improved version called MS1202 VLZ. The suggested retail price is \$429.

Another mixer to check into is the Spirit Folio made by Soundcraft. This company has been making mixing consoles for the Big Boys for 22 years. This is the first time they have a mixer this small and never with a price of \$469.

by: Gregory H. Raw

D.V.D. DIGITAL VIDEO DISC

Richard Christiansen, Chicago Tribune Writer and Arts Critic suggests watching out for a new format to view Hollywood movies; The new Digital Video Disc, or DVD. It will be the biggest thing to hit home video since the introduction of the video cassette recorder (VCR) more than 20 years ago. The new product is the five inch video disc, which is about the size of an audio compact disc (CD) and promises to hold a two hour movie that is superior in sight and sound to anything available on a video cassette. DVD advo-

continued on page 9

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Class C Commercial category, but none for Professional made film/videos per se.

For a long time there has been pressure to not allow College produced films that are clearly pilots, into Amateur Competition. That is difficult to not agree with when a few years ago one that won all sorts of Amateur trophies and certificates, was entered by the maker a few years later in a European competition as a Commercial film.

Our film/video entry form has a place to sign where one affirms that all information is correct. Entries are never pre-screened before a judging audience to decide whether or not it is made by professionals. This writer had to deny for a film once, when as a Chairman of a competition in another organization. The film in question was clearly not made by an amateur under normal conditions.

I want to squelch the spread of wild claims that AMPS allows professionally made films/videos entered in the Amateur category of our competitions. If anyone can show conclusive proof to the contrary to any of our Officers, we will take steps to recall the trophies and certificates, and award money if any.

In such cases the next runner up will win the prize, and on down.

by: Howard Lewis

ADDITIONAL SOURCE

We would be remiss if we did not list more sources where movie film might be obtained.

Solar Cine Products, Inc.
4247 S. Kedzie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60632

Kodak Movie Film. 16mm,
Super 8 silent, Super 8
sound, BLK/WHT silent. Write
for a catalog.

A phone call to FUJI of Anaheim, and the question: Is Single 8 movie film available? The answer; No, it is no longer sold by us.

Which brings to mind the admonition:

If you ever find anything you like, buy a lifetime supply of it. Because if it is any good, they will stop making it!

From our news sources we are warned that many TV Channels will be issuing Re-Runs of old shows in the coming season. Nothing new about that, we have been pre-conditioned.

Get your movie or video camera and go shoot your own program.

OPEN LETTER TO READERS OF MOVIE MAKERS

It has been an established policy of this publication to not deal with personalities, except for special cases of reporting the deaths of people who were outstanding in Movie/Video circles, and writers by lines. We stay away from the folksy news covered in local Club Bulletins.

I must make an exception at this time with anyone who had correspondence, festival listings, and so on, with Mr. George Cushman, Editor. Our dear friend passed away Feb. 4, 1996, as was reported in the March-April '96 issue. Since then it has been a laborious process to go through his AMPS files, sort them out, and bring them to my house in El Cajon. I am deeply indebted to his four sons for helping me with the details. There was a volume of information and procedures George Cushman carried in his mind. It is my purpose to pick up where he left off, and continue his Editorial policies.

If you can write to me concerning topics related to this publication, I will do my best to answer you.

Howard Lewis

Tea & Coffee Breaks - It's A Custom

A yearly Movie/Video Convention, Conference, Fiesta, Congress, etc. is a good way to get like minded people together to socialize and view the best entries for the year in the Non-Professional Motion Picture World. A person goes home afterward with a renewed attitude to make an entry that will be better.

Usually in the US there are two programs in the morning, and two in the afternoon at a Convention. The interlude in between is long enough for a rest room (toilet) break. Go to Canada and the break in mid-morning and afternoons finds tea or coffee, etc. available, along with cookies and other confections offered. The same is true in New Zealand.

At a meeting in Adelaide, Australia a few years ago, the people expressed surprise that in America we did not offer tea or coffee at mid points. They said, "Our Conference attendees in Australia expect it."

Isn't it refreshing to enjoy the customs in different Countries where Amateur Movie Makers get together? It will be interesting to learn the custom enjoyed at the Inter-

national Festival at UNICA 96 in Almelo, Holland, August 16-25, 1996. That will be the location and date of the UNICA - Congress and Festival of the Union Internationale Du Cinema Non Professionnel.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH RADIO MIKES?

That all depends on the quality of the radio microphone, and where you bought it. It also depends on who you are sharing the radio frequencies with. There are many variables to consider. It is not as simple as the glowing advertising claims state.

Specifications usually say they operate on the VHF band. That band covers 30MHz to 300MHz. That is a broad frequency spectrum, and everybody uses it. All the Television Channels, some HAM radio bands, and the FM stations are in there. The microphone and it's transmitter is omnidirectional. But the receiver at the camera must be a good one, and able to fine tune your transmitter, as far as 250 feet away in line of sight reception. The transmitter is required to be low power to conform to regulations. A person walking between the transmitter and receiver can mess up the dialogue being recorded.

So many electrical fixtures surrounding you can cause hum, buzzing, etc. A leaky ballast in a fluorescent light can cause no end of headaches. If one is using a radio mike in some remote location, such as the sea shore, out in the country, or in the mountains, one will encounter ideal conditions. But, then then you will be bugged by ambient sounds. A motorcycle a mile away can sure ruin a take.

By now you should understand why the Movie Studios use Sound Stages. But that is a subject for another time.

PAGE A	WITH CONSECUTIVE YEAR	ENTRY FORM	FINAL DAY OF JUDGING AUGUST 1 '96
AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL		DATE _____ 1996	

The above heading is a teaser to let you know the ENTRY FORMS for the AMPS Film and Video Festival will be ready for distribution the first weeks of May 1996.

For those of you who have sent us your FORM requests, be patient, as they will be mailed to you as soon as the ink on them dries. Not since Park City in 1994 have four Motion Picture Organizations been in one place at one time. Look at page 11 and you will see that it will be CIAFF, SAVAC, TBW, and AMPS. It's Victoria, B.C. Oct. 3-6, 1996.

WHAT DO THOSE NUMBERS MEAN ON THE ADDRESS LABELS?

Often we receive a subscription renewal to MOVIE MAKERS long before it is due. We appreciate that confidence by our readers to be sure to not run out. When we get money before run out time, we extend your expiration date by the appropriate number of months, thus you wind up with a new number on your address label. This is no problem.

We now print a single number. For example: Say your subscription, or membership arrives in this office Sept. 3. You would receive the September-October issue. That is No. 5. When the address label is made up, it would have the No. 4 on it. That means your subscription runs out next year with the July-August (No. 4) issue. That will be the magazine in which the renewal reminder slip will be. In case you have forgotten, the printed reminder slip tells you your subscription, or membership, runs out with that issue in hand.

When we started, it was common to print a code number such as R0933 behind the name. The significant number is the last number (3). That again, means the subscription runs out with the 3rd issue of

Barf Ratzafratz 2
2468 Anyplace St.
Your Town, PU 81200

May-June. As was said above, we want to simplify the process.

This is how MOVIE MAKERS works; Printed on or before the 25th of even numbered months.

Jan-Feb No. 1
Mar-Apr No. 2
May-Jun No. 3
Jul-Aug No. 4
Sep-Oct No. 5
Nov-Dec No. 6

East Windy 3
501 West Ave.
Goforit, NU 70290

Of Mikes and Men ...

AZDEN offers wireless microphones that might be the answer to your dialogue recording. They offer a system with 2 channels, and you can pick the one that sounds best to you.

Keep your actors with short brief lines. Your audience must understand what is being said.

(see page 7: What's wrong with Radio mikes?)
If you understand the problem, it isn't a problem.

D.V.D. from page 4

cates believe that their format will be much better than the high standards of reproduction maintained by the laser disc.

Christiansen writes, "When I mentioned this to a friend of mine, she spoke for many a home video watcher when she moaned, "Does this mean my tapes will be obsolete and I'll have to buy some more new machinery?" It could be, but not necessarily. The VHS video format will still be around for some time. However, to play the new DVD format, obviously a new type player will be required. There are many "ifs" involved in the development of the new DVD format. If the DVD is reasonably priced at about \$25 per disc, the price generally talked about, it might have a chance to capture the market and out sell the VHS system. And, if the price of the DVD players is low enough - some manufacturers are suggesting a tag of about \$500 to \$1000 (not including merchant discounts) for combination player that works with DVD, CD and laser disc, the idea just might catch on. However, the DVD equipment in the works, does not include recording capabilities.

If enough titles are available on DVD, video viewers might want to check them out. So far, however, only a few hundred titles have been

promised, compared with the more than 8000 titles in the small market of the laser discs and the much greater VHS tape rental market.

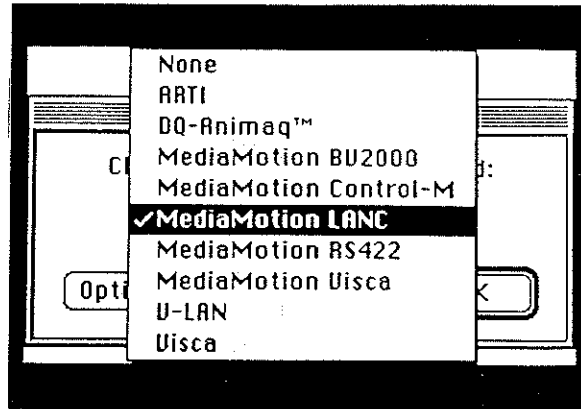
This Autumn, if all goes according to plan, we will get a first look at the DVD system. Marty Greenwald, Chief Executive Officer of Image Entertainment, said in the latest issue of the trade magazine, Billboard, "Let's say that DVD is better than VHS. Does that guarantee that it will go into 50 million households? Are consumers prepared to get rid of their tape libraries and buy another 'electronic box' for \$700 and more with a limited catalog of titles?" Maybe; maybe not. In the meantime, hang on to your VHS recorders and VHS tape collections. We know they work and the picture has been enough for us so far.

by: Peter B. Crombie, Editor
South Side Movie Club

IS TITLE MAKING A BOTHER TO YOU?

Are you only too happy to let your titles be generated out of an electronic box? Do your titles look like everyone elses? Lets look at other possibilities in the next issue of MOVIE MAKERS.

WHAT'S NEW?



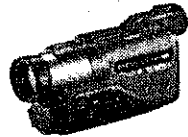
VIDEONICS MEDIAMOTION V2.6

Videonics Mediamotion V 2.6 Adds External Device Control to Quicktime Video Editing Programs.

March 25, '96: Videonics today introduced its MediaMotion Version 2.6, an easy-to-use, affordable plug in program that replaces the previous version of the company's popular VTK Plug In Pack machine-control software. With Videonics' new MediaMotion, users of two industry standard QuickTime digital non-linear video editing programs (Adobe Premiere and Data Translation Media 100) automatically control both consumer and professional camcorders and VCRs-- all with unprecedented accuracy and Data Translation for the purpose of batch digitizing,

a facility that saves time and disk space. It also supports Print to Video features of Premiere Media 100, that assist in recorded finished footage on tape. International formats are now supported with the ability to change the Frames Per Second setting to PAL formats. MediaMotion for Macintosh has also been enhanced for improved PowerMac performance.

For info call: 212/388-1400
Dobbin/Bolgia Associates.



HITACHI

A versatile video camera is being offered in the HITACHI VMH710A. It does not have all the bells and whistles of some of the more expensive cousins, but it will get you into HI8 quality of video photography. It appears to be a good quality beginners camera. There are no over rides, as focus and black and white balance is automatic. If you want to date a scene, or give it a name, there is a built in provision to do that. The camera seems to be a good family type, and not critical to operate.

YEAR	CLOS DATE	FESTIVAL NAME AND ADDRESS 1996	OPEN TO	SUB- JECT	FOR- MATS	TIME LIMIT	ENTRY FEE	AWARD	SHOW DATES
25th	4-10	Montreal Festival of New Cinema 3726 boul-St. Laurent Montr'eal, Quebec, Canada H2X 2V8	ABCD	G	MLJ 35mm	None	\$50	T	6-6- 16, 96
10th	4-30	Intl. Festival of Films on Energy (FIFEL) Rue du Maupas 2, Case postale 314 CH-1000 LAUSANNE 9.	QABC D	F	MNO J 35	59 Min	NONE	TUV	Nov. 13-16
4th	5-31	UFVA Student Film & Video Festival Dept. R-T-F, Temple Univ. Philadelphia, PA 19122	B	F	Film Video	None	\$15	T	Aug 96 Spr 97
5th	5-24	PSA Members Only Video Competition Dorothy H. Hall, 7241 Ridgemoor Dr. S.E. Olympia, WA 98513	F	G	M	20 Min	\$6 & \$10	VW	Sep 2- 7, 96
19th	5-31	Mill Valley Film Festival 38 Miller Ave., Ste. 6, Mill Valley, CA 94941	ABCD E	G	HJM NOP	NONE	\$25	N/A	Oct 3- 13
5th	5-31	Guernsey Lily Intl. Amateur Film Festival C/O John Dzanne, La Geniesse, Forest Guernsey, G48 0AQ, Channel Islands	ABCF	G	PAL MNO	30 Min	£ 5	TUV	Sep 21 22, 96
27th	6-15	CIAFF Canadian Intl. Annual Film/Video Festival Ben Andrews, Festival Director 25 Eugenia St., Barrie, Ontario L4M 1P6 Canada	ABD	G	HJM	30 Min	\$20 \$25 \$40	UVW	Oct 3- 6, 96
14th	6-25	Central Florida Film & Video Festival 15½ N. Eola Dr. #5, Orlando, FL 32801	ABCD F	G	MNO PJH	NONE	\$15 \$35	TUV	Sep 27 Oct 7
19th	7-12	Denver Intl. Film Festival 1430 Larimar Sq., #201, Denver, CO 80202	ABD E	G	JL	NONE	\$10 \$258	W	Oct 17 25, 96
36th	8-26	SAVAC Annual Contest Howard Lockwood, Competition Chairman 11370 Ruggiero Ave. Lake View Terrace, CA 91342	AB	G	HJM	20 Min	\$20	UV	Oct 3- 6, 96
41st	9-3	The 1996 Ten Best of the West Competition M. Aldersmith C/O 2701 Arbutus Road Victoria, B.C. V8N 1W8, Canada	AFR	G	MNO PHJ	20 Min	\$5	V	Oct 3- 6, 96
20th	9-10	Sao Paulo Intl. Film Festival Al Lorena 937, CJ303 01424-001 Sao Paulo- SP BRAZIL	ABD	G	J 35m	NONE	NONE	U	Oct 18 Nov 1
67th	10-1	American Intl. Film & Video Festival (AMPS) Mike Trippiedi, Festival Director 802 Frank Drive Champaign, Illinois 61821, U.S.A.	ABC DE	G	HJM NOP	NONE	\$5	TUV	Oct 3- 6, 96

N/A Not Announced or Not Available

A Non-commercial	D Independent	G Open	K Other	N S-VHS	Q Invitat.1	T Cash	W Other Awards
B College Student	E Commercial	H S-8	L 3/4"	O 8mm	R Regional*	U Trophies	X Approximate
C Hi Sch Gr Sch	F Restricted	J 16mm	M VHS	P Hi8	S Exceptions	V Certificates	Y It Varies